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FIRST RECORD OF GIANT SNIPE *GALLINAGO UNDULATA* FOR BOLIVIA

The Giant Snipe *Gallinago undulata* is known from scattered localities in open marshy areas and savanna in lowland South America, primarily at subtropical latitudes, north and south of the Amazon Basin. Although recorded from Brazil and Paraguay, no definite record existed previously for adjacent Bolivia (Remsen & Traylor 1989, *contra* Olog 1968, Meyer de Schauensee 1970).

I tape-recorded the nocturnal display calls of *Gallinago undulata* on 6 April 1993 at Flor d'Oro, Parque Nacional Noel Kempff Mercado, department of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, coordinates 13°32'S, 61°00'W, elevation about 200 m. Flor d'Oro is on the western bank of the Río Iténez (called the Río Guaporé in Brazil), which forms the border with Brazil. The bird displayed at 21.00 hrs, about 2 hours after dusk; it was calling from the direction of savanna habitat, similar to that depicted and described in Haverschmidt (1974). The Flor d'Oro savanna is also on sandy soil, completely covered with grass, and dotted with shrubs and short trees. It also has low-lying areas with ankle-deep water, at least in March and April (the end of the rainy season). As in the locality described by Haverschmidt, the South American Snipe *Gallinago*

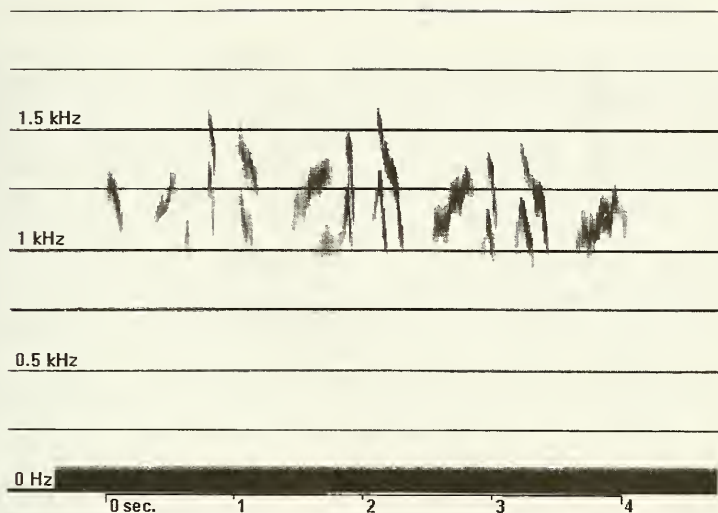


Figure 1. Display call of Giant Snipe *Gallinago undulata* at Flor d'Oro, Bolivia, April 1993. Tape-recorded by the author.

paraguaiiae also occurs in the Flor d'Oro savanna. In fact, both species are heard displaying on my tape-recording. Sick (1993) also stated that *G. undulata* is often syntopic with *G. paraguaiiae*.

The display call of *G. undulata* (Fig. 1) is described by Sick (1993) as "... 2-5 sonorous cries like 'HO-go, go' or 'Ga-ga, ga' with a human timbre, translated by country people as 'agua-só, o-rapaz', or 'rola-pau'." Sick stated that these calls are uttered high in the air. He also mentioned a loud buzz, presumably a mechanical sound produced in flight, as in various other snipes. I was not able to verify whether the calls came from the air, nor did I hear the buzz, perhaps because the bird displayed quite far away.

I thank Gregory F. Budney and his collaborators at Cornell Library of Natural Sounds for providing a sonagram of a known recording of *G. undulata*, and Torben Dabelsteen at the Zoological Museum in Copenhagen for letting me use the Kay Sonagraph. I also thank J. V. Remsen for reviewing the manuscript.

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